

The Southeast News

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2

DECEMBER 1967

Christmas Greetings from Southeast Conference Staff

Christmas Is God In Mission

In a letter of greeting from Ray and Shirley Berry in South Dakota were these words: "We no longer debate the meaning of 'mission' . . . nor have occasion to preach sermons on the pros and cons of the 'God Is Dead' controversy. In humility and with positive conviction, we proclaim that we are IN MISSION, serving God's most forgotten children in America . . ."

Your Conference staff would proclaim to all of you that we as Christians, whether on the Conference staff or in local churches, are IN MISSION because at Christmas we know that God was and is IN MISSION. We would greet each of you this Christmas season that God is come in Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice and give thanks!

Emilie Pitcock Guy L. Colbert
Wilmer L. McCord Jesse H. Dollar
W. J. Andes
(Mrs. Andes joins in this greeting)

Two Top Priorities

PEACE AND JUSTICE IN VIETNAM and THE URBAN CRISIS were declared the two top priorities for the months ahead by The Consultation on National Strategy called by the Council for Christian Social Action. To implement this action, Dr. Huber F. Klemme and the Rev. L. Alexander Harper will give major attention to the Urban Crisis. To give attention to the Vietnam Crisis, the Council will affiliate with Negotiation Now and call a national conference of churchmen on Vietnam.

Special Offering

Dec. 31 For OCWM

In accordance with a request from Dr. Sheldon Mackey of the Stewardship Council, churches of the Southeast Conference are asked to share in a special offering on Sunday, Dec. 31, for Our Christian World Mission. This special offering, it is hoped, will help bolster funds for some of our instrumentalities which have had to cut budgets because of decreased income from churches.

Detailed information will go to pastors, clerks, and superintendents. This offering on the fifty-third Sunday of the year is an over and above offering for Our Christian World Mission. Let us respond conscientiously.

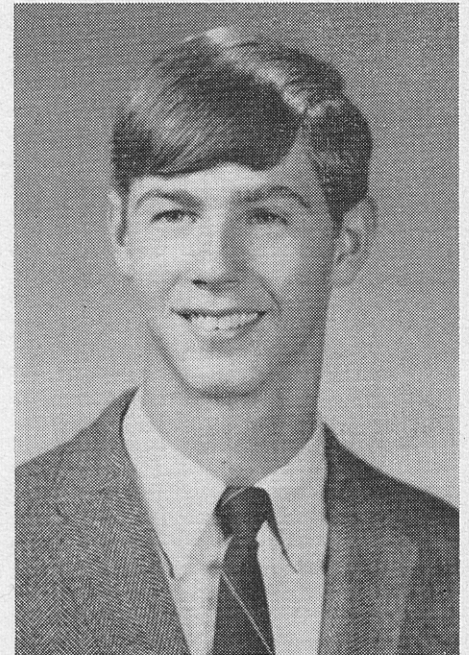
Important Announcements

The Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ will meet in annual session April 27-28, 1968, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference meets February 21, 1968, at the Conference office in Atlanta, 2684 Clairmont Road, N. E.

The annual meeting of Southeast Conference Youth will be at First Church, Atlanta, Ga., March 23-24, 1968.

Tenn. - Ky. Youth Meet At Crossville



STEPHEN EARL DEBLOIS
New President, Tenn.-Ky. Youth

Kenny Davis of Deer Lodge was acting chairman as the Tennessee-Kentucky Youth met at First Church, Crossville on Saturday, November 11. Following registration, several young people led group singing. A brief business session included appointment of committees, who were instructed to meet during lunch.

Small groups formulated questions on dating, going steady, and marriage. These questions were then dealt with by a panel composed of parents and youth, under the chairmanship of Miss Yubenia Prigmore of Sweetwater.

Women of the Crossville Church prepared a delicious spaghetti lunch, with ice cream and cake for dessert.

Three workshops opened the afternoon program: Social Groups, led by Scott Cross of Vanderbilt Seminary; The War and Protest Groups, led by Edward Brown of Atlanta; and Use of

(Continued on Page 5)

Introducing Colloquy

The United Church of Christ will have a new publication which will begin with the January 1968 issue. Its name, COLLOQUY, is intended to be an instrument for conversation and communication about education. In approach and style it will seek to be an educational instrument.

The magazine succeeds *Children's Religion* and *Church School Worker* and will incorporate some of the features of each of these magazines.

The editor is Rev. John H. Westerhoif III. Associate editor is Rev. William T. Joyner. Consultative help in development of the magazine comes from local church correspondents, staff consultants, and a group of editorial consultants: Dr. James L. Adams, Dr. James Cass, Sister Mary Corita, Dr. Archie Hargraves, Dr. Robert W. Lynn, Dr. Phillip H. Phenix, John Sharnik, Dr. Roger L. Shinn, Dr. George Williams.

COLLOQUY's central purpose is the continuing education of leaders in the educational ministries of parish churches, using new journalistic style.

Churchmen's Washington

Seminar Is To Be

February 6-9, 1968

This year the theme of the Churchmen's Washington Seminar will be "The Church in a Time of Tension." The main purpose of this seminar will be to give an opportunity for religious leaders to study the operation of the Federal Government at its source.

Cost of the seminar will include \$15 registration fee, which covers four meals. All other expenses will be borne by the participants.

Accommodations are to be at Dodge House, 20 E Street, NW, Washington, D. C., for United Church of Christ registrants. Rates: \$5 - \$8.50. There is a denominational quota, so persons wishing to attend are advised to apply promptly to: Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks, 110 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, D. C. 20002.

Twelve denominations cooperate in this venture, which includes visits to Congress and conferences with federal agencies and committees.

Dr. Donald Dearborn, Catawba College President, Dies In Salisbury, N. C.



Dr. Donald C. Dearborn, president of Catawba College, Salisbury, N. C., died November 11, after suffering a heart attack while attending a football game at the college stadium.

Dr. Dearborn was fifteenth president of Catawba College, having served in that capacity since 1963.

Catawba College is a co-educational liberal arts college, founded in 1851. With an enrollment of 1,046, it is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Dearborn served on the national Executive Council, United Church of Christ, and was a member of its administrative committee at the time of his death. He twice represented the denomination at the World Council of Churches Assembly, 1954 and 1961.

Dr. Dearborn married Mary Katharine Omwake. They have three children, Miss Katharine Dearborn, Boston, Mass.; Ralph Dearborn, teaching at armed forces schools in Germany; and Elizabeth Dearborn, a senior at Elon College, Elon College, North Carolina.

Funeral services for Dr. Dearborn were held November 14th at First United Church of Christ, Salisbury, with Dr. Ben Herbster and Dr. Lonnie Carpenter officiating.

Youth Ministry

Notebook Available

A new major resource for adults working with youth is the YOUTH MINISTRY NOTEBOOK, available from our book stores at \$3.00. It is produced jointly by the United Church and Episcopal youth staffs and will be a yearly publication. The first edition has five sections:

PART I: "Objectives of Youth Ministry," is a series of interpretive articles dealing with youth issues: the high school, sexual standards, suicide, the church, and what youth finds exciting. This is followed by a guide for a church planning committee to use in determining its own youth ministry approach.

PART II: Article by Albert van den Heuvel entitled "The Gracious Silence." It raises the question of the action of God in the world, our experience of it and response. An article by Professor Donald Browning of University of Chicago, in which he makes four theological statements connecting the issues of PART I with how the church works with youth.

PART III: A series of case studies reporting experiences of churches, individuals, or conferences who have tried to come to grips with urbanization, civil rights, intercultural meetings, a search for meaning, or poverty. In addition, there are reports on two coffee house experiments. Some questions are provided to help a local church planning committee think through how these case studies might relate to them in ministry with youth.

PART IV: Two study guides for group use. A seven-session study concerned with welfare and a guide on "walking in another man's shoes" in an attempt to help youth know people from whom they are usually insulated.

PART V: A listing of current resources: books, audio-visuals, study units, pamphlets, etc.

The Youth Ministry Notebook may be ordered from: United Church Bookstore, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Love makes a man think almost as much of a girl as he thinks of himself.

PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE CHURCH

Your Conference Minister has written to churches and ministers of the Southeast Conference asking them to send a resume of their plans for Christmas for printing in **SOUTHEAST NEWS**. Some of these plans appear below. However, some had not made plans yet, and some sermon themes had not been planned this far in advance. Perhaps some of the Christmas activities of churches can be printed in the January issue.

The Christian Year begins with the Advent season, which is the period including the four Sundays preceding Christmas. During this season the Old Testament prophets and John the Baptist are very much in the minds of Christians because they stressed the necessity for repentance and the coming of the awaited Messiah. This is a time of penitence, and special prayer should be made that we be worthy of Him who is God's greatest gift.

Christmas, then, becomes a sacred trust; we must guard it lovingly. Joy to the world! for why? The Lord is come!

Waycross, Williams Chapel

A Christmas play will be presented and a Christmas tree will be sponsored by the Church School. Sermons will be in keeping with the Spirit of the season. The young people are planning a Christmas party and the Women's Guild will make a Christmas party of their regular December meeting. All of these have been part of Christmas at Williams Chapel ever since it was organized. An attractive Nativity Scene, well lighted, has been displayed for the past several years.

Williams Chapel also reports a net gain in membership during the year of 20. During the year the church gave \$400 on the cost of a car for the pastor. The church put down about 300 running feet of concrete walks, about five feet wide, to connect the church buildings. The church has a budget of \$8,964 for 1968.

— Warren L. Smith, Reporter

Meditation At Advent



By **S. LAWRENCE JOHNSON**
Birmingham, Alabama

At Advent-Christmas time, most of us become so enthralled with the age-old stories, the well-known songs and beloved hymns, that we forget this season is not only for children, but also for adults. We are apt to believe that "at Christmas we are all children again." This is fine as long as we keep a grain of sense in our belief.

The fourth gospel is much more mature theologically and dogmatically than any of the other gospels. It emphasizes the Messianic royalty of Christ. The opening words of John practically balance the opening words of Genesis: "In the beginning, GOD" and "in the beginning, the WORD."

"The Word" was before man. God, who so graciously exhibited his spirit in Jesus, is the creator as well as the sustainer of the universe. "In the beginning was the Word."

In essence, the Book of Genesis suggests the beginning of everything. Before the beginning, though, there was the spirit. It has always been. This is one of the most difficult thoughts for the human mind to grasp. It is as incomprehensible as the magnitude of the universe. Just as there was no beginning for the spirit, so there will be no ending. These facts must be accepted without question and without argument.

The Word suggests a continuous state. This Christ Spirit which was in

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Blackwood Church Has Christmas Celebration

At Christmas-time, we have a church program — usually a pageant of scripture and Christmas carols and appropriate costumes for the characters. At the Christmas program, the offering is earmarked for "Veterans of the Cross" (retired ministers).

Until a few years ago, it had been our tradition always on Christmas Day to have the Christmas program, the dinner, and closing with a community Christmas tree where gifts were shared.

On Christmas Eve a group goes Christmas caroling for the shut-ins of the community.

Baskets of fruit and other Christmas "goodies," and a gift or two are prepared for each "golden age" person or couple of church and community.

About two years ago, 10 children became orphans when a car wreck took their mother (father had died previously) and our church has been sponsoring many of their needs, especially through the Women's Fellowship. Already, each member of Women's Fellowship has chosen one of the children to whom gifts will be given at Christmas.

Since the Community Club, Extension Homemakers Club, and the schools have inspirational programs and parties that include church members, we do not have church parties as such.

The minister preaches at least one sermon on a Christmas theme. On December 24th, he plans to preach on "When Christmas Came to Bethlehem."

The Sunday School uses Christmas carols all the sessions of December and in other ways calls attention to the Advent Season.

The Christmas program is sponsored by the Sunday School, the caroling by the youth group, the baskets by the women.

Dora Brackin, Reporter

Christmas At Howard Church, Nashville

The Church School children will present a program and all young people will have a Christmas pageant.

The pastor, Hycel B. Taylor, will preach on the subject "Moving Christmas Out of the Ordinary."

Warren Blankenhorn To Oak Grove Church

Rev. Warren Blankenhorn has accepted the call to become the pastor of Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga., effective Jan. 1, 1968. For the past several years, Mr. Blankenhorn has been a part of the staff of Goodwill Industries in Columbus, Ga., and also has served as pastor of the Elder Church at Dadeville.

Oak Grove Church, located in a rural area, is surrounded by growing towns, and the people look forward to the ministry of the Blankenhorns as they move to the Oak Grove parsonage.

Huntsville Pledges To Building Fund

The United Church of Huntsville had John Westfield of the Church Finance Advisory Department during the week of November 13-20. The goal of \$20,000 was set for the Building Fund, to be paid over a two-year period. As reports were summarized that Sunday night, a total of \$18,484 was pledged with several families yet to be seen.

Rev. James Humphrey, pastor of the church, reports a wonderful spirit of hope and cooperation among the members as they look forward now to the building of the first unit of their new church plant.

Everything comes to him who waits, if he works like the dickens while he's waiting.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE The United Church of Christ

P. O. Box 29883

Atlanta, Ga. 30329

633-5655

Single Subscription \$1.50 Per Year

Group Subscription \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 16

Dec. 1967

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Representatives From SEC Attend National Planning Conference At Notre Dame

Four representatives from the Southeast Conference attended the National Planning Conference on Confirmation Education November 6-10 at Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana. These included: Rev. Donald Daughtery of First Church, Atlanta; Rev. W. Walter Hall, Lanett, Ala.; Rev. John Roemer, Nashville, Tenn.; and Rev. Emilie Pitcock from the SEC staff.

Through plenary sessions, inter-team groups, and planning meetings by conferences, those attending had opportunity to look at where we are in Confirmation Education, the world of contemporary youth, assumptions underlying the Confirmation Education Series Materials, and planning for Confirmation Education through the Conference and the local church. On the closing night, with three Conference teams meeting together, there was opportunity for each Conference to "try out" its plans on two other Conference teams.

In the Southeast Conference, Confirmation Education is virtually unknown, with the nearest thing to it being the "Pastor's Class" in a few of our churches. We need to be doing more in training youth and adults to be involved as committed Christians in the total life of the world as well as in the church. Furthermore, Confirmation Education must be the concern not only of the pastor but of the total worshipping and working congregation.

In the Confirmation Education Series, total-church planning is built into the Manual. Pastors are urged to study the Manual as soon as it is off the press late in January or early in February. At the Pastors' Convocation in January there will be opportunity to explore the meaning, aims and plans for Confirmation Education as pastors consider "The Local Church in God's Mission."

East Alabama Ministers Meet

The ministers of the East Alabama Association met with the Pleasant Grove Church on November 20, 1967, and exchanged books that had been of great help to the owners. A brief discussion of each book was given. The ministers will meet again on December 18, 1967, with First Church, Roanoke, Alabama.

Meditation At Advent

(Continued from Page 3)

Jesus and exists in you and in every human being needs to be developed. The majestic thing about Jesus is that he was able and willing to allow this spirit to increase in Him. In Him, it was a becoming thing. He was a becoming person.

Jesus was a person distinct from God, but there was so much of the Christ spirit in him that John wrote, "And the Word was with God." Coleridge remarks upon the significance of this proposition as implying that the Word was "with God," not in the sense of coexistence or local proximity or communion, but of mysterious relation with God. The distinct personality of the son is not only implied, but asserted.

For many people, Christmas is a time of the year: a time for eating too much, a time for giving and getting presents, not really needed or wanted. However, Christmas should be a state of mind — a feeling of love, a sense of hope, an awareness that good ultimately triumphs, and an abiding faith that we can increase in spirit so that in our personal worlds there will be peace.

John wrote, "The Word was made flesh." The Word can and should be constantly translated into the flesh and observable in each of us. The late Dwight J. Bradley aptly put it thus: "It is a case of the ocean flowing into the drop." When we humans permit God's spirit to enter fully into us and to motivate our lives, then it is in truth the Advent-Christmas Season.

Rush Memorial, Atlanta

Preceding Thanksgiving, the pastor, Rev. Joe E. Boone, has been preaching a series of sermons on the general theme, "The United Church of Christ." During the Advent season his theme will follow "The Coming of Christ to All Men."

Christmas at Rush Memorial brings a Sunday School program setting forth the nativity story in song and in scripture. The choirs of the church have special music during Advent, preparatory to the Christmas program of carols and anthems. Gifts to the smaller children are generally given, as the entire congregation shares in the spirit of Christmas by gifts to the poor.

—Mrs. J. E. Boone, Reporter

United Church T O U R S Winter Chautauqua

Plans for seven new United Church Tours for 1968 have been announced by Nelson C. Dreier, secretary for Tours, Stewardship Council, United Church of Christ. A complete schedule includes:

Puerto Rico - Virgin Islands—Feb. 15-24

Holy Land — April 16 - May 2

Hawaii — June 19-24, with extension June 25 - 28

Reformation Countries — July 23-Aug. 13

Mansfield College, Oxford University—July 10-31

England - Scotland - Ireland — July 31 - August 19

India via Holy Land — October 1-28, with round the world extension October 28 - November 15

United Church Tours offer an unusually fine opportunity to combine pleasure with a purpose. All itineraries are carefully worked out to enable tour members to see and visit unusual places of interest in the countries visited, as well as to provide a comprehensive view of the church's mission. Tours are planned in cooperation with church leaders who live in the countries on the tour.

An attractive folder about tours is available from 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Tenn - Ky. Youth

(Continued from Page 1)

Drugs, led by Hycel Taylor of Nashville. A sharing period followed.

Steve DeBlois of Knoxville was elected president of Tennessee-Kentucky Youth for 1967-68. Other officers elected were: Barbara Edwards, Nashville, vice-president; Katherine Kirke-minde, Crossville, secretary; Lynn Spray, Oak Ridge, treasurer; Philip Tucker and Donna Simonton, both of Crossville, were elected to the Fellowship Committee.

Tennessee-Kentucky Youth accepted an invitation to meet at the Sweetwater Church on Saturday, October 19, 1968.

Following the installation of officers by Miss Pitcock, the meeting was adjourned.

Christmas At Circular Church, Charleston

On December 17, at 7 p. m., the White Gifts Service will be presented by the Pilgrim Youth Fellowship and the Senior and Junior Choirs.

At Avon Park, Fla.

Want a vacation with a purpose? Go to the Winter Chautauqua at Lake Byrd Conference Center, Avon Park, Florida, February 18-24, February 25-March 2, March 3 - March 9, or March 10 - March 16. Rates start at \$75 per week (Sunday supper through Saturday breakfast). Comfortable rooms, private baths, excellent cuisine. Sun, sand, bathing; our own beach on beautiful Lake Byrd.

Resident lectures will be given by Douglas Horton, Mildred McAfee Horton, Henry Smith Leiper, and Allen Wehrli. Each week's program will include five morning addresses by the lecturer in residence; afternoon excursions to Cypress Gardens, Bok Tower, a state park; evening musicales, travelogues, the Black Hills Passion Play, etc.

An activity of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, this is open to all who may be interested. If you would like to be on the mailing list for more detailed information, write: Winter Chautauqua Program, Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, P. O. Box 1056, Avon Park, Florida 33825.

Ministers' Convocation January 15 - 17

Camp Calvin, Rt. 2, Hampton, Ga. 30338

— Theme —

"The Local Church in God's Mission"

Speakers: Dr. Gerald J. Jud, Division of Evangelism

Dr. David Beebe, Chaplain, Berry College

The entire conference will be given over to consideration of the 1968-69 Emphasis of the United Church of Christ, "The Local Church in God's Mission."

The conference is being underwritten financially so that every minister in the Conference can afford to come. All churches should make sure that their pastor plans to attend.

Letters going to pastors give more detailed information. Pastors expecting to share in the cost-free aspect of the convocation must return the reservation card.

Georgia Council Of Churches Takes Important Action

The Georgia Council of Churches, on November 2nd, took a stand against capital punishment, calling on the state legislature to repeal all Georgia laws permitting it and urging Gov. Maddox to issue stays of execution for all prisoners now awaiting the death penalty.

In other matters, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the state Board of Education and Board of Regents to authorize a revision of its approved list of text books to include a fair representation of all ethnic groups.

The resolution charged that contributions made to America and its culture by Negroes and other ethnic groups have not had a fair representation in approved educational materials in Georgia public schools.

The Lutheran churches of Georgia of the Southeastern Synod of the Lutheran Church in America was received into membership. Roman Catholic delegates, including two priests and a layman, attended the session. The feeling that the Atlanta archdiocese might soon become a member of the Council was expressed, as was the hope that the Roman Catholic Church as a whole can join the World Council of Churches.

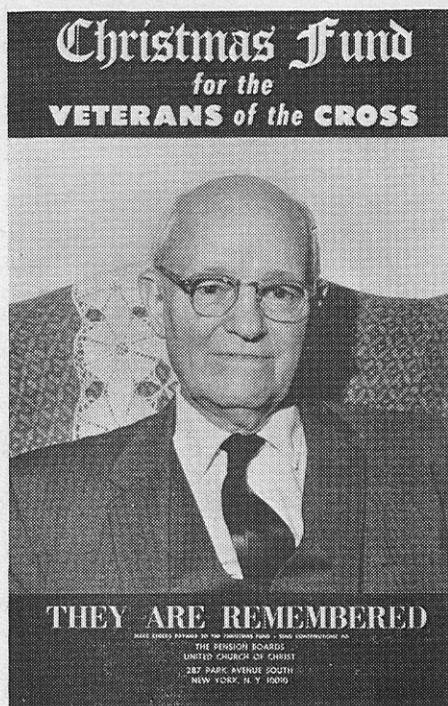
Re-elected to the office of president was John J. Deifell of Atlanta. Rev. Edward A. Driscoll of Central Church, Atlanta, serves as executive secretary of the Council.

HEATHER MARIE BEEBE

Heather Marie Beebe, daughter of Chaplain and Mrs. David Beebe, was born September 28, 1967, in Chattanooga. Mr. Beebe is chaplain at Berry College, Mt. Berry, Georgia. A service of infant baptism for Heather Marie was held on Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Academy at Berry. Participants included Dr. William J. Andes, conference minister, and Rev. Yale Gunn, assistant chaplain. Following the service a reception was held in the home of Berry College president, Dr. Bernard, and Mrs. Bernard.

CAROLYN FAYE HUMPHREY

Carolyn Faye Humphrey was born to Rev. and Mrs. James E. Humphrey on October 20, 1967.



They Are Remembered — By You!!

The Veterans of the Cross — retired ministers, their wives or their widows — are remembered in a practical demonstration of love and affection through the annual Christmas Fund Appeal. Every Christmas the whole church, the United Church, remembers with special generosity the years of service and the years of need accumulated by many of our retired ministers and their wives or the widows of these men.

Christmas Fund gifts from individuals and churches across the nation enable the Pension Boards to provide direct, tangible help for those whose pensions are small because they were based on small salaries, whose purchasing power has been lessened by inflation, or whose emergency needs threaten to be devastating. The Christmas Fund goes out in Christmas checks and whenever there is need, in emergency grants.

Last year's Christmas Fund Appeal was successful, and because of this, persons with special needs have been remembered. As you remember them with your gifts this year, remember,

What Will You Do During Summer 1968?

Senior high and college age young people frequently ask, "What worthwhile thing can I do during summer vacation?" The church offers several possibilities for the summer of '68.

For senior highs, the United Church sponsors several Work Camps: one at McIntosh, Georgia (Dorchester Center in our own Southeast Conference); Lilbourn, Missouri; Louisville, Kentucky; Ripon, Wisconsin; and Meredith, New Hampshire. Each is from two to four weeks long; cost is from \$30 to \$60, plus travel. Yes, youth pay for the privilege of performing physical labor and community service for the sake of others. Of course, there is opportunity for fellowship, recreation, and study, so that the experience is an enriching one.

For college students there is an even wider variety: Community Service Projects, also sponsored by the United Church of Christ, are located in: Miami, Florida; Washington, D. C.; East Orange, New Jersey; Honolulu, Hawaii; Biloxi, Mississippi; Boston, Massachusetts; Sierra Vista, Arizona; Philadelphia, Pa., and other locations. Cost is \$10 program fee plus travel. In these community service projects, a group of college students work as a team to meet a definite social need manifested by a community. Such might include racial, economic or class tensions, delinquency, health and home problems as they are approached through basic education, recreation or programs of mutual assistance. Participants must be 18 years of age and above, with the equivalent of at least one year of col-

lege.

too, that medical care costs have increased more than in any twelve-month period since 1946.

The Christmas Fund poster and the leaflet for this year highlight the work of the Fund. Checks made payable to the Christmas Fund should be sent directly to the Pension Board, The United Church of Christ, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10010.

lege.

Also for college students are opportunities for Institutional Service, offering service to those in various types of institutions, including homes for children and the aged, mental hospitals and special agencies. Participants serve as relief workers, attendants, program assistants. Cost is \$10 program fee plus travel. Openings are at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, at our own Uplands Retirement Center; Womelsdorf, Pa., at the Bethany Children's Home; Neillsville, Wisconsin, at the Winnebago Children's Home; and Littlestown, Pa., at Hoffman Home for Children.

For overseas, Work Camps have openings for young people at least 19 years of age and preferably two years of college: at Birmingham, England; at Rendsburg, Germany; at Villar Pellice, Italy; and at Le Chambon-Sur-Lignon, France. Cost of each about \$750 including travel.

Several Ecumenical Work Camps are proposed, but we do not have information on these until after January 1.

Two year-round projects are well worth considering: the International Christian Youth Exchange, a high school overseas exchange program for young people 16 years of age or older. And One Year Voluntary Service, in which a young person at least 18 years of age is trained for two months and then serves for ten months in a children's or old folks' home, an inner-city mission, a rural life center, a hospital, or a mental institution. Expenses are underwritten.

For more information, the Southeast Conference office has flyers with brief descriptions of each project. For complete information and application blanks, write United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Pottstown, R. D. 2, Pennsylvania, indicating specific projects in which you are interested.

We are living in a secular society. This calls for honesty in our religion. The traditional distinction between the sacred and the secular no longer applies. Rather, the sacred finds expression in the secular. Just as God scattered the people who built the Tower of Babel, he is scattering us today throughout a complex and varied urban society.